

REMARKS

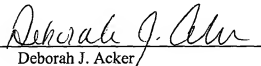
The present preliminary amendment places claims 2, 8 and 13-19 in the condition in which such claims were allowable (claim 2) or allowed (claims 8 and 13-19) in prior application Serial No. 09/394,712. Although the Examiner had indicated that such claims were allowable or allowed, Applicants chose to cancel such claims and present them in the present continuation application in order to expedite the declaration of an interference in the prior application. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 2 and 8-19, as amended, are in condition for allowance.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: September 23, 2003

By: 
Deborah J. Acker
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